

MARVEL  
COMICS



# X-FACTOR

RETURNS TO  
EARTH...

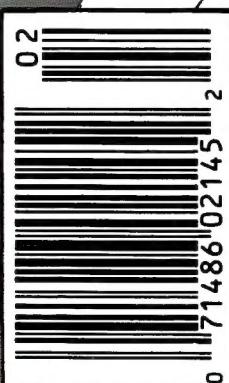
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...TO FACE  
THE SAVAGERY  
OF  
**SABRETOOTH!**



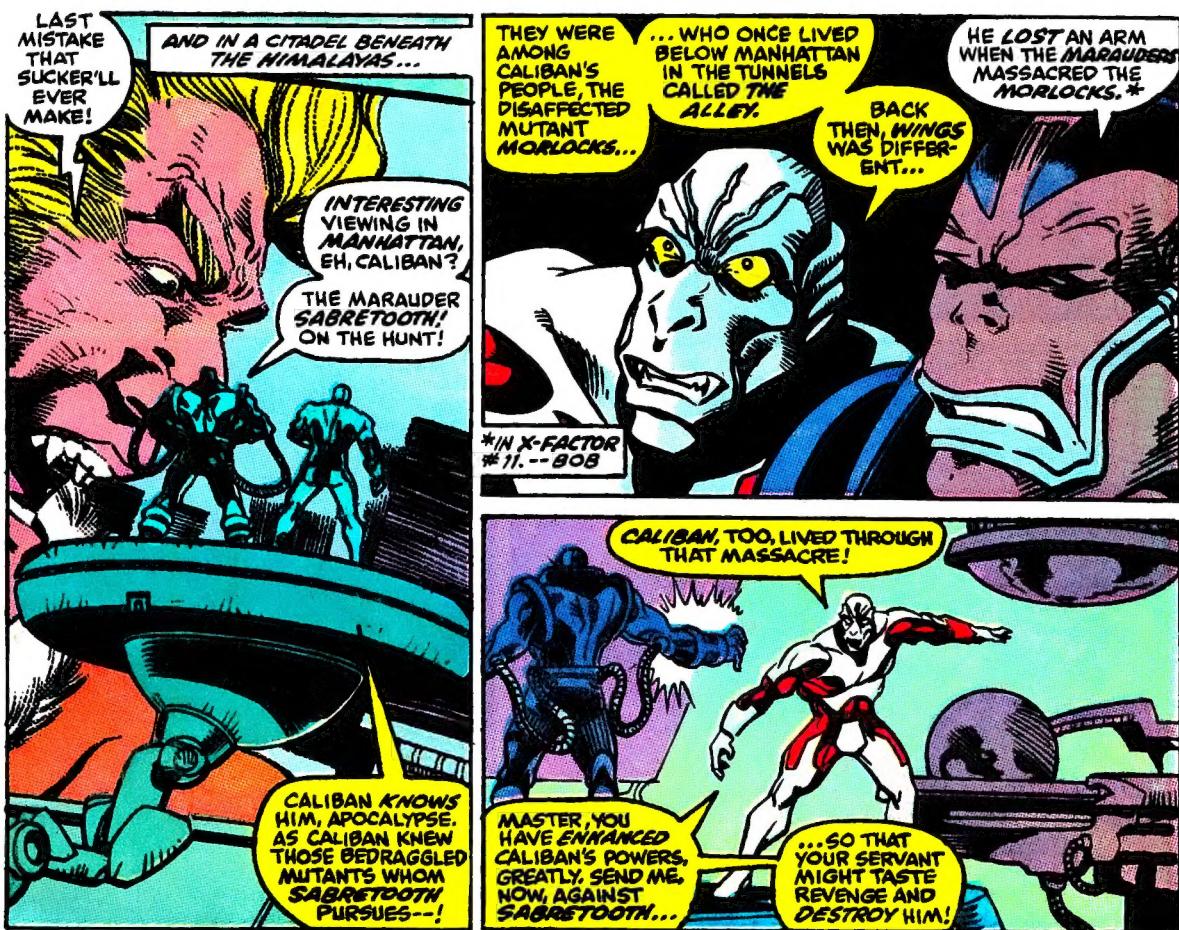
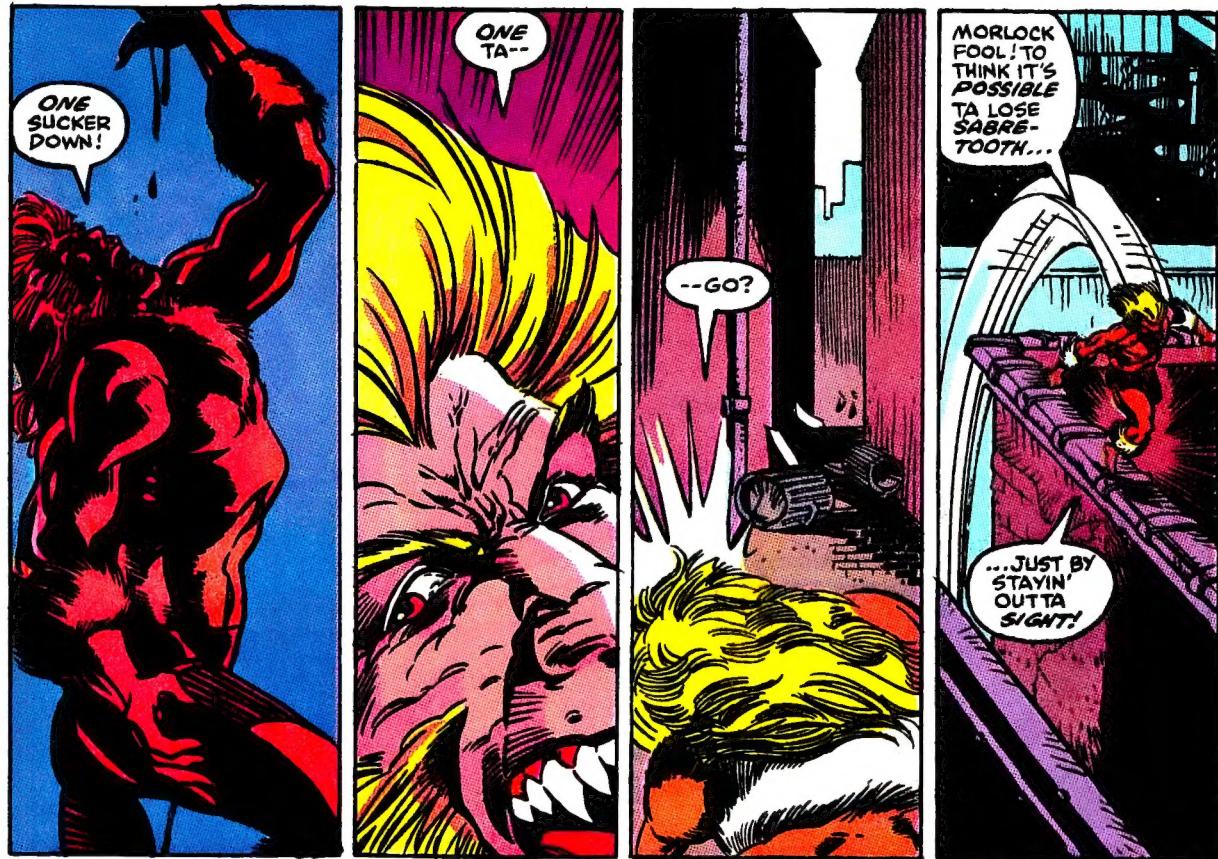


\* IN X-MEN #210-213--BOB

LOUISE SIMONSON TERRY SHOEMAKER ALLEN MILGROM JOE ROSEN TOM VINCENT BOB HARRAS TOM DEFALCO  
WRITER PENCILER INKER LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR EDITOR IN CHIEF

**X-FACTOR** Vol. 1, No. 51, February, 1990. (ISSN #0894-6604) Published by MARVEL COMICS, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1990 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.00 per copy in the U.S. and \$1.25 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. \$12.00, Canada \$17.00, and foreign \$24.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. X-FACTOR (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) are trademarks of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to X-FACTOR, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.





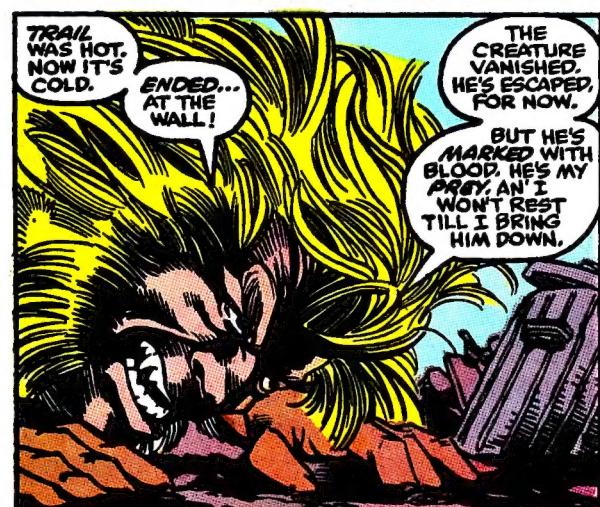




BURROW WITH  
MY MUTANT POWER  
THROUGH THE WALL  
JUST LIKE A  
MOLE...

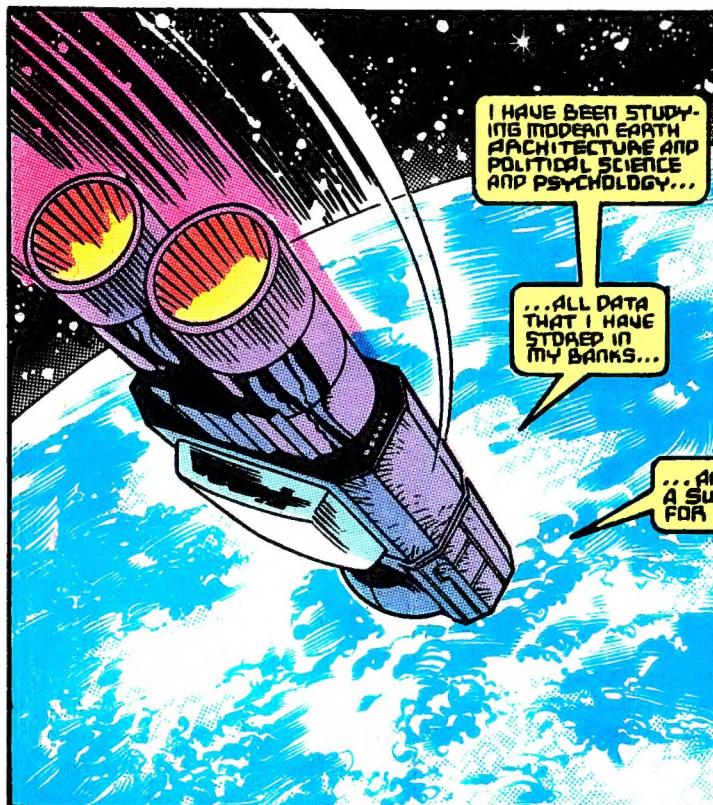


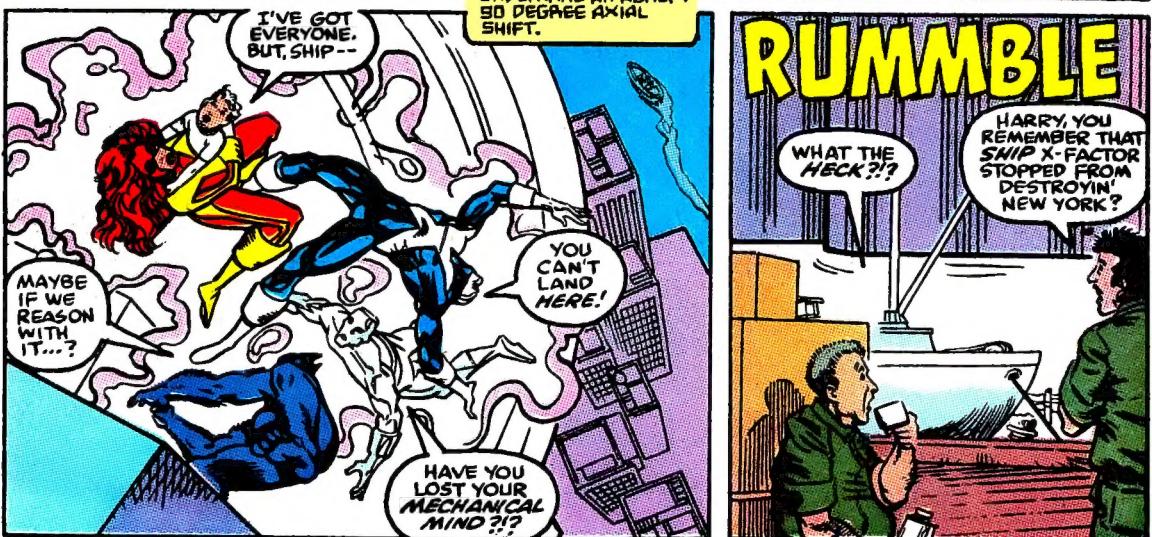
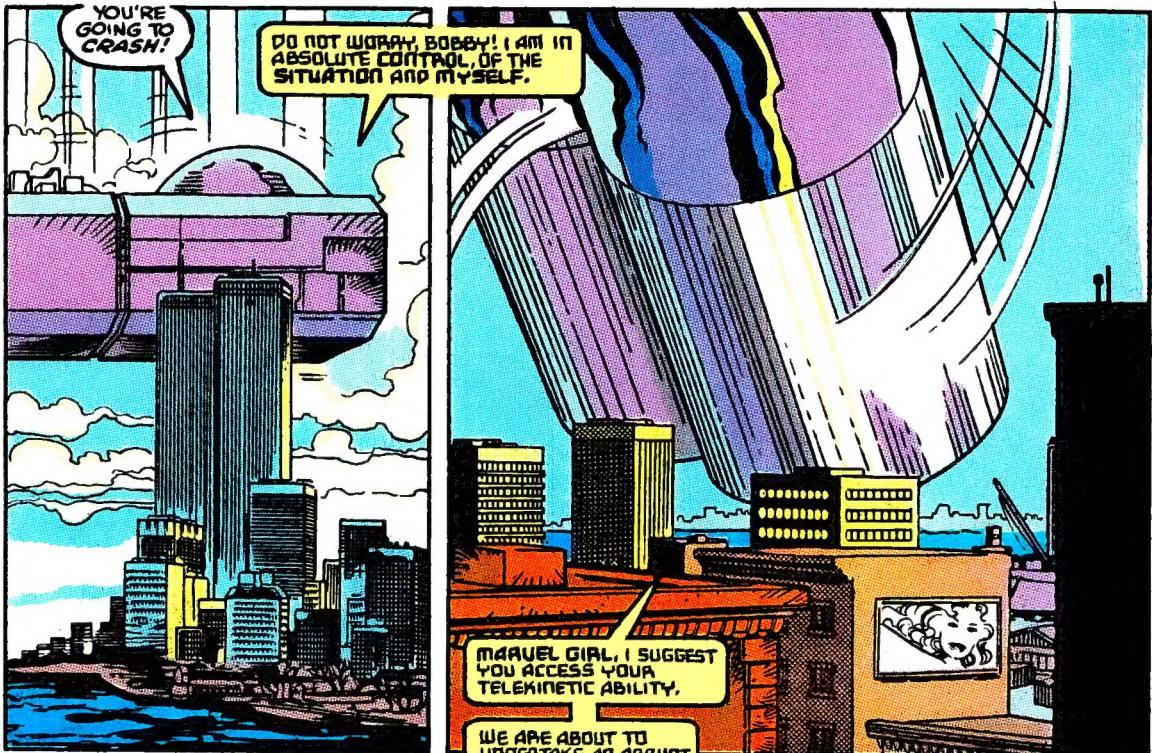
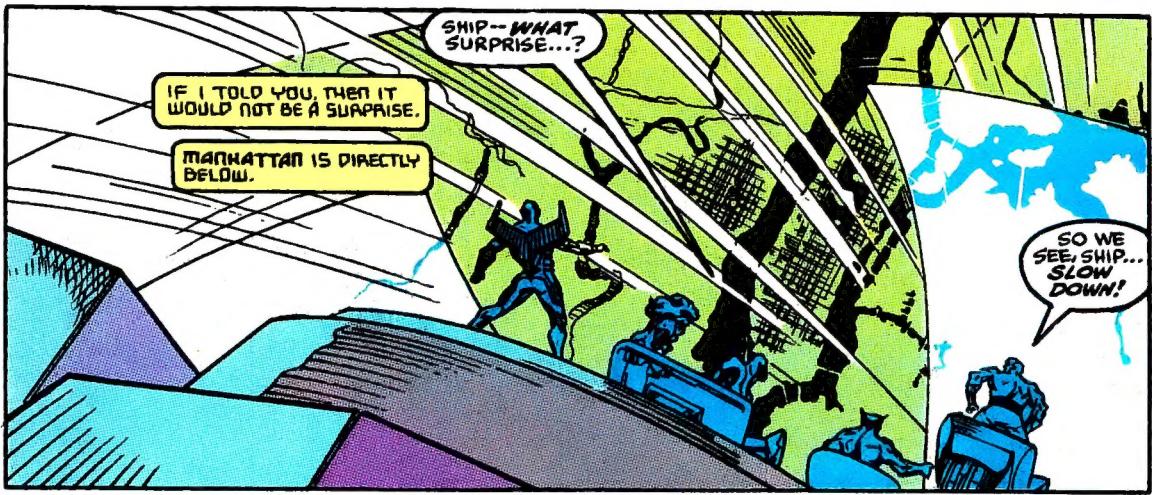
SKRASSH!



THE  
CREATURE  
VANISHED.  
HE'S ESCAPED,  
FOR NOW.  
BUT HE'S  
MARKED WITH  
BLOOD. HE'S MY  
PREDY. AN' I  
WON'T REST  
TILL I BRING  
HIM DOWN.

MEANWHILE, THE MUTANT HEROES, X-FACTOR NEAR EARTH'S SOLAR SYSTEM ON THE LAST LEG OF THEIR LONG JOURNEY HOME...\*

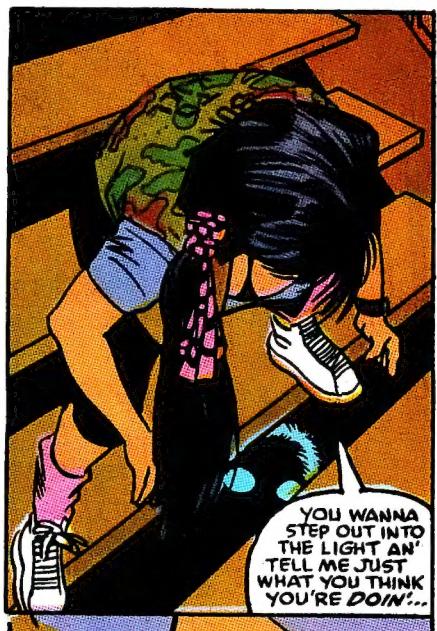




# RUMMMBBLE

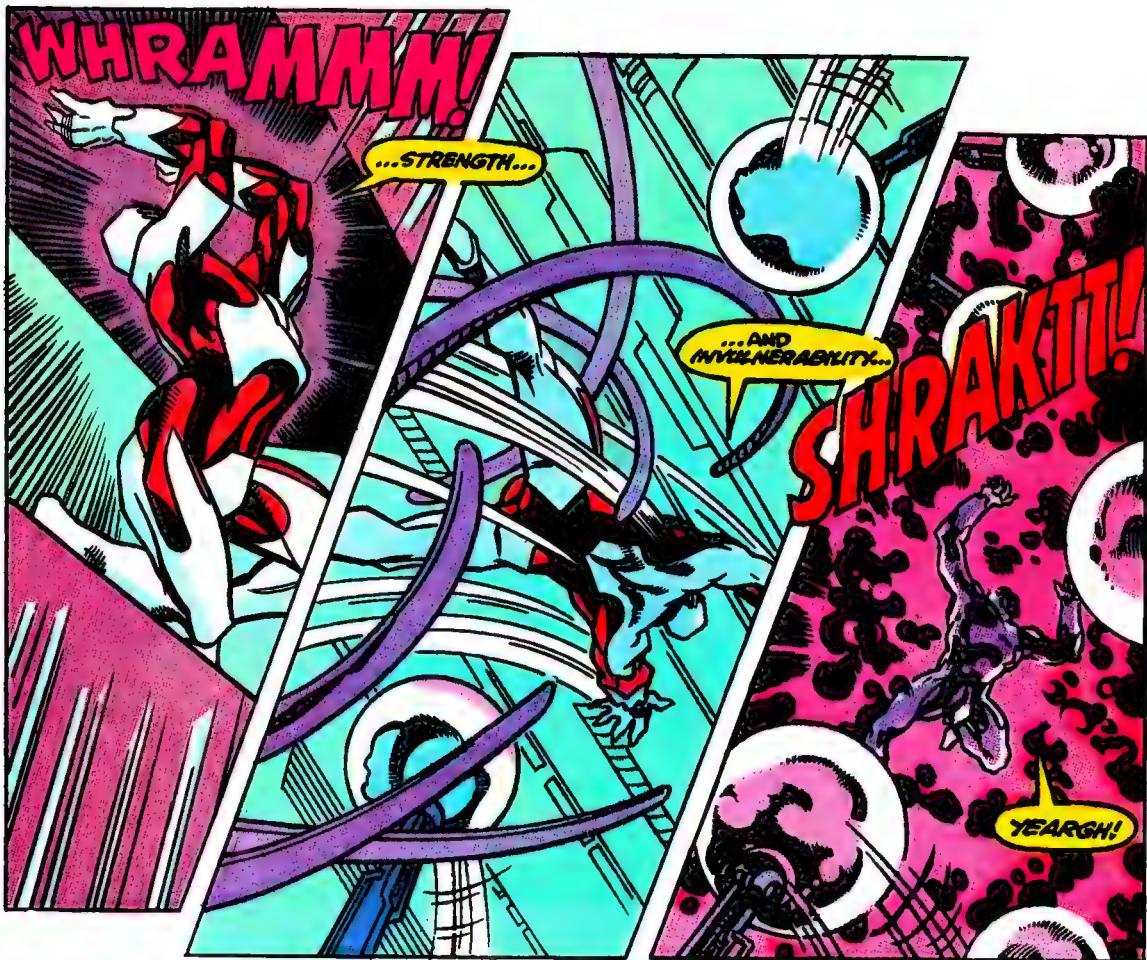


AND IN LOWER MANHATTAN, BUILDINGS SWAY SLIGHTLY FROM THE IMPACT OF THE SHIP'S LANDING AS ITS SHADOW IS THROWN ACROSS THE ISLAND FROM WEST TO EAST...



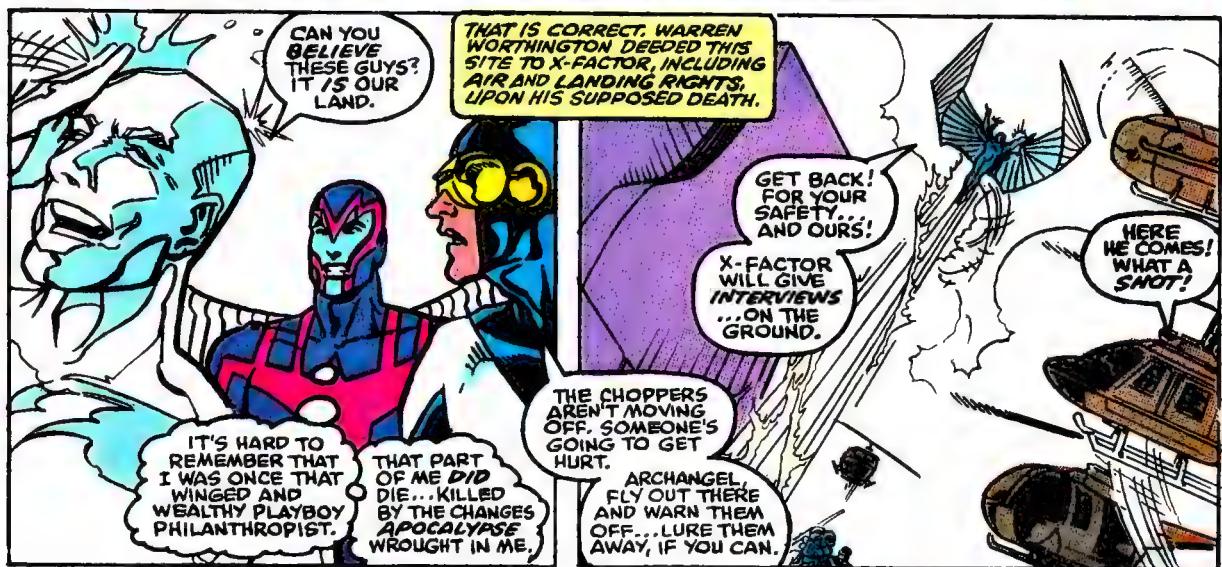
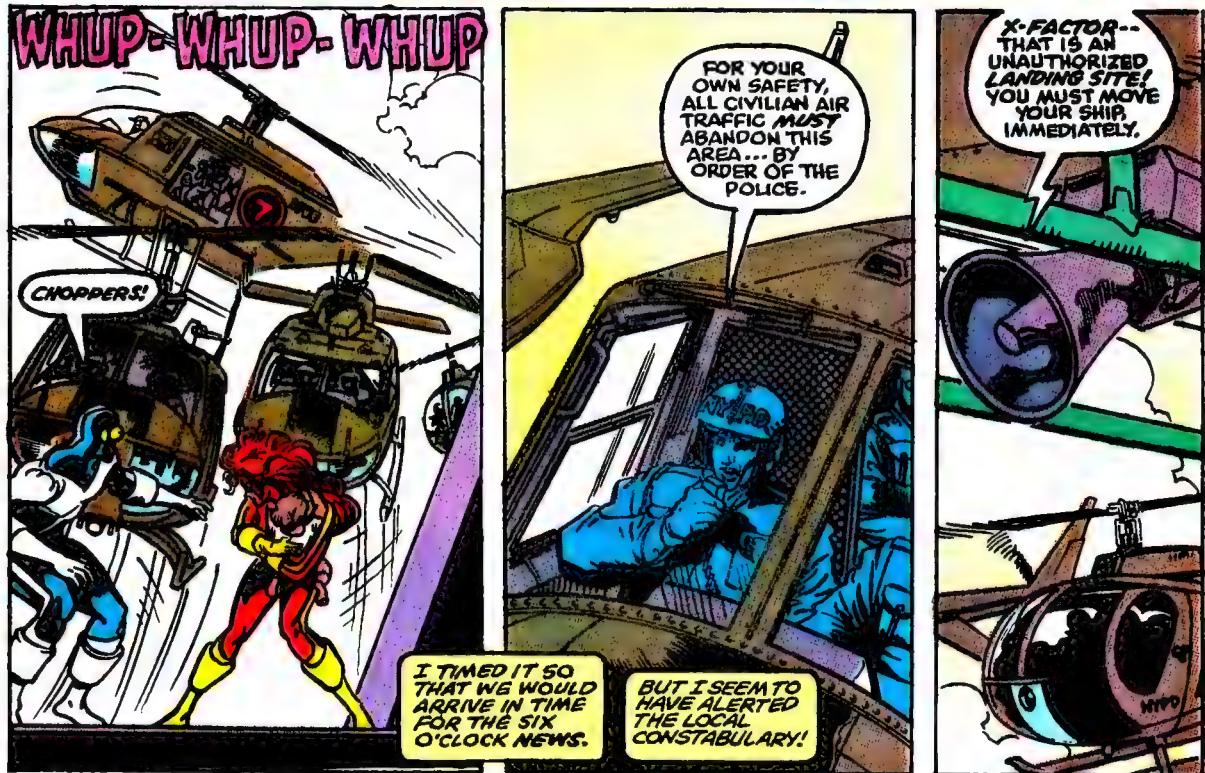
WHILE, BENEATH THE HIMALAYAS, APOCALYPSE  
CONTINUES HIS VIGIL...



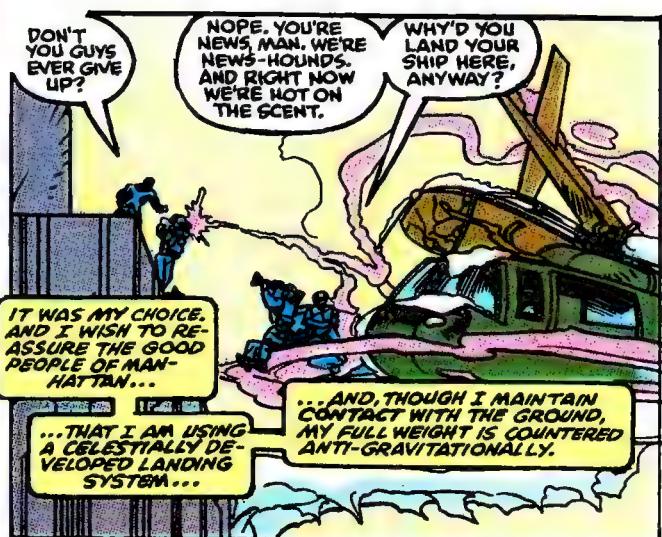






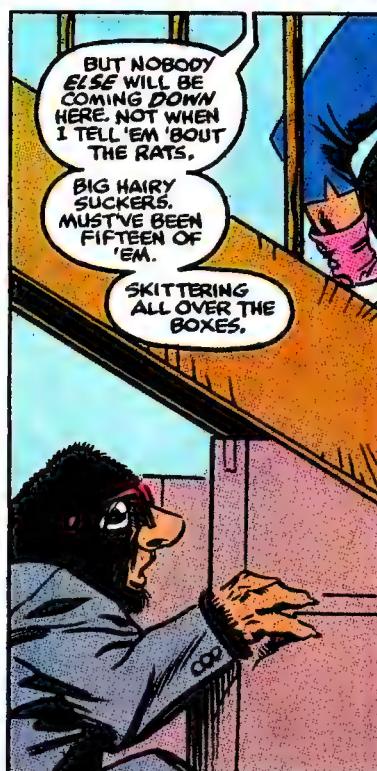






WHILE THIRTY  
BLOCKS AWAY...





WHILE BLOCKS AWAY...

HEADS UP, PEOPLE.  
LOOKS LIKE IT'S TIME  
TO FACE THE MUSIC.

I'M JUST  
GLAD NO ONE  
WAS HURT.

YOU KNOW IT,  
JEANIE! AND, SINCE  
WE'RE TO BE TRIED  
IN THE MEDIA, IT  
WON'T HURT TO HAVE  
THOSE VISUALS  
IMPLYING OUR  
HEROISM!

A FEW  
SNAPPY  
SOUND  
BITES  
WOULDN'T  
HURT, EITHER!

THESE AREN'T  
REPORTERS...  
THEY'RE NEWS-  
HUNGRY SHARKS!

HANK!  
HANK!

WHERE WERE  
YOU? WHY DIDN'T  
YOU TELL ME YOU  
WERE GOING?  
I MISSED YOU SO  
MUCH, HANK! I  
WAS FURIOUS!

IT'S NOT SURPRISING!  
YOUR SHIPS' LANDING  
REALLY WAS EXTRA-  
ORDINARY... IF NOT  
ACTUALLY ILLEGAL.

HARDLY A  
PROFESSIONAL  
INTERVIEW, MISS  
TRILBY! BUT IN  
CASE YOU'RE  
WONDERING...

X-FACTOR SAVED  
OUR BUTTS, MAN!  
THAT RED-HAIRED  
LADY HADN'T GRABBED  
US LIKE SHE DID...

...WE'D HAVE  
BEEN HAM-  
BURGER!

...I'M  
PLEASED  
AS PUNCH  
TO SEE  
YOU, TOO!

ICEMAN, THE OTHERS  
SEEM TO LOVE IT...  
THESE JOSTLING  
REPORTERS WIELDING  
MIKES AND CAMERAS  
LIKE WEAPONS.

# Bulper Bulletin

## Stan's Soapbox

I'm writing these imperishable words exactly twenty-four hours after returning from the Chicago ComicCon at which I was a special guest. (I suspect they dub you "Special Guest" when they don't quite know what to make of you, but why split hairs?) My purpose in bringing this momentous matter to the attention of Marveldom Assembled is a simple one. I want to compliment you! Here's why:

Inasmuch as you're reading this mag, you are undoubtedly a fan. If not necessarily a Marvel fan, then certainly a comic book fan (though to me, of course, the phrases are synonymous). As a fan, you are part of a unique, very select group of individuals. This was brought home to me so clearly at the Chicago Con and the many other such gatherings I've been privileged to attend.

Having been to all sorts of conventions over the years, I can honestly say that those devoted to comic books seem to attract the smartest, most concerned, most aware and most caring fans of all. If any of the few remaining people who still denigrate comics and comic book readers could attend such Cons, I'm sure they'd quickly lose their unfounded prejudice.

Talking with countless Chicago fans, I couldn't help but be impressed by their knowledge, not only of comics in particular, but of art and literature in general. As the talk turned to the philosophical and sociological aspects of various stories and concepts, I realized that there is a great common denominator linking lovers of comic books, science fiction, art, theater and all forms of the media. That common denominator is comprised of a healthy imagination, an awareness of the world about us and a love of adventure and heroics.

Each minute I spend in the comic book world, the prouder I become of the work I do and the people I do it for. Comics are greater than ever—and so are you fans! Just thought you'd like to know.

Excisor!

**ITEM:** Did we mention that DC's softball team clobbered us 8-2 this past summer? Sheesh, you'd think having the blockbuster motion picture of the year would be enough for 'em . . . but, nooo! Seriously, we're almost as excited as they are about the success of the *Batman* movie. Anything that's good for one comic book company is good for all of comics! (But wait'll next year!)

**ITEM:** Speaking of blockbuster motion pictures, we've recently held our very own Marvel Film Festival! It was held September 22nd in the Bulpen and it featured films by many a Marvel staffer. The complete schedule included:

"Microwave" by Rob Tokar  
 "Flesh-Eating Mothers" by Harry Eisenstein  
 "The Freelancer" by Mike Heisler & Steve Buccellato  
 "Ameroth" by Evan Skolnick  
 "Possession" by Gregory Wright  
 "Living Lifestyles" by Mark Gruenwald  
 "Day in the Life of an Assistant Editor" by Marie Javins  
 By popular vote, Gregarious Greg's "Possession" won the covetous "Spidey" award!

**ITEM:** It's that turkey time of year again and that means the *Amazing Spider-Man* balloon will once again fly over the streets of Manhattan in the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade! He took a few years, but at long last Spidey is flying in all his comics as well as in real life! What's that? You didn't know your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man could fly? Where'd have you been? Next you'll tell us that you're unaware of the colossal crossover currently running in virtually every Marvel super hero title. You know, "Acts of Vengeance," where all sorts of super villains tackle super heroes they never met before . . . ? Ah, c'mon, don't tell us you did know about it. Well here's a little checklist of all the *Acts of Vengeance* titles for this month:

The core titles are:  
 AVENGERS WEST COAST #54  
 CAPTAIN AMERICA #366  
 AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT #28

QUASAR #6  
 AVENGERS #313  
 IRON MAN #252  
 FANTASTIC FOUR #336  
 DAMAGE CONTROL II #3  
 And the crossovers are:  
 DAREDEVIL #276  
 X-MEN #257  
 WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #60  
 AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #328  
 ALPHA FLIGHT #80  
 NEW MUTANTS #85  
 POWER PACK #53  
 PUNISHER #29  
 DR. STRANGE #13  
 MOON KNIGHT #10  
 SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #160  
 THOR #413

**ITEM:** On September 18, Marvel participated for the first time in "New York is Book Country," the big annual street fair that ran from 47th to 57th Street on Fifth Avenue. Not only did we give away over 6,000 comic books to the fabulous folks that stopped by our booth, but none other than *Walt* and *Louise Simonson*, *Glenn Herding* and *Jim Salicrup*, *Spider-Man* and *Spider-Woman*, and *Barbara slate* were there to meet and greet everyone! (And if you didn't know, Walt will soon be writing and drawing the *FANTASTIC FOUR*, Louise is currently writing *X-FACTOR* and *NEW MUTANTS*, Jim and Glenn edit all the *Spider-Man* titles, and Barbara has created *YUPPIES FROM HELL*, a new offbeat black and white, one-shot, 48-page comic album, on sale now.) Also on hand were *Mark Gruenwald*, *Doug Murray*, *Suzanne Gaffney*, *Evan Skolnick*, *Sara Tuchinsky*, *Lou Bark*, *Donald Hudson*, and *Dawn Geiger*. Famed science-fiction author, *Barry Malzberg*, even dropped by to say hello and wish us luck with our forthcoming series, *OPEN SPACE*, which features tales of the future by today's top SF writers and comic artists. *Steve Saffel*, our humble Promotion Manager, was our ringleader and did a heck of a job—a good time was had by all, and we're really hoping to do it all again next year!

## ProFile: JAMES DIGIOVANNA™



**Assistant Editor on:** The Spurious Works of Plato, The Collected Post-Marxist Semiotic Social Theory of Jean Baudrillard, G.I. JOE, NIN MAN, HULK, SHE-HULK.

**Marvel freelance credits (past):** Writer on FANTASTIC FOUR #1, AMAZING FANTASY #15, creator of SPEEDBALL

**Marvel freelance credits (present):** As a Trotskyite, I refuse to work for Maoists (until my trust fund dries up)

**My place of birth is:** Fort Rucker, Alabama and Tupelo, Mississippi.

**People who knew me in high school thought I was:** A hallucination.

**My hobbies are:** Taking the cuss words out of *Bobbie Chase's* inter-office memos and converting strangers to the worship of Degrassi Junior High.

**My pet peeves are:** Foreign dignitaries who refuse to accept our local custom of Jub Jub dancing before the sorbet is served.

**My favorite performers are:** The P.W.T. repertory company, Lach, and Alvin Lucier's Santa Fe shirt collection

**The last good book I read was:** Like most comic book editors, I have never read a book

**The last good movie I saw was:** *Housewife* by Larry Cohen.

**If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by:** Vic Tayback.

**My oddest habit is:** Warming the spoon under my arm.

**My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is:** Being America's favorite whistling hobo

**The reason I got into comics was:** To be closer to Tom DeFalco.

**The biggest influences on my work include:** Editing: Ezra Pound; Xeroxing: Friedrich Nietzsche; Paste-up: Jacques Derrida.

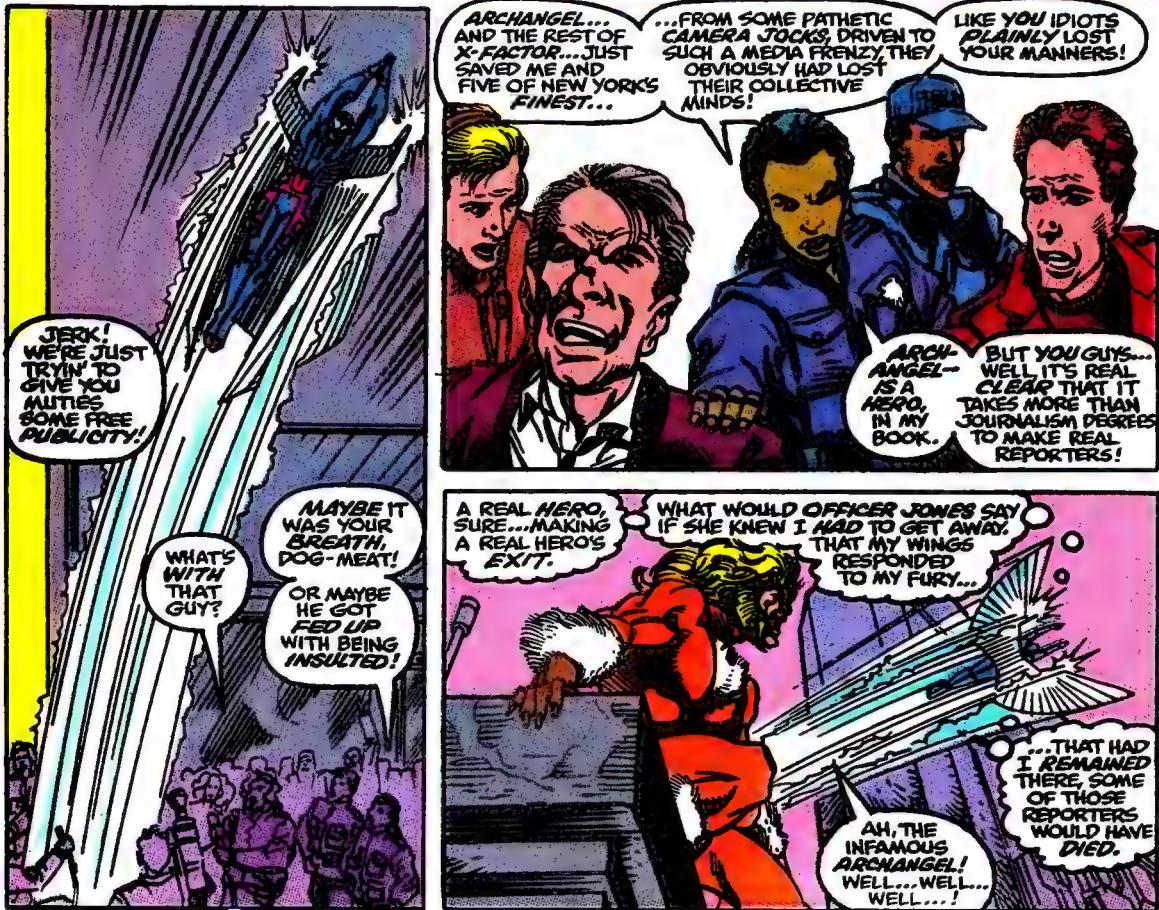
**The single work of which I am most proud is:** Standing in for Divine in the final scene of *Pink Flamingos*.

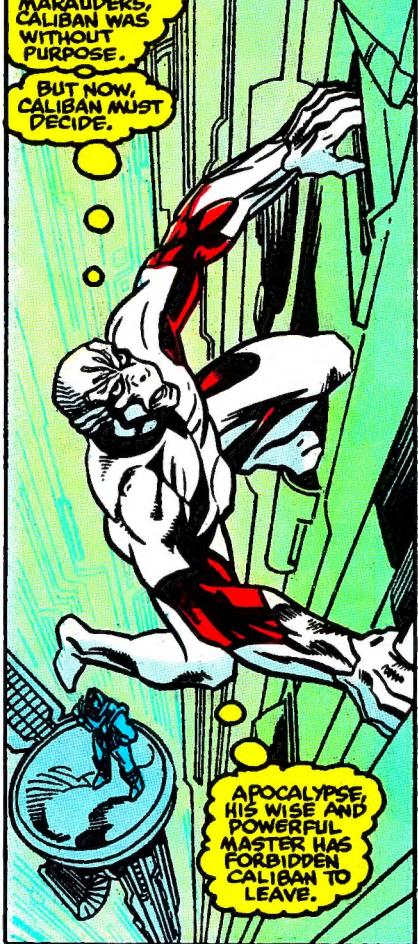
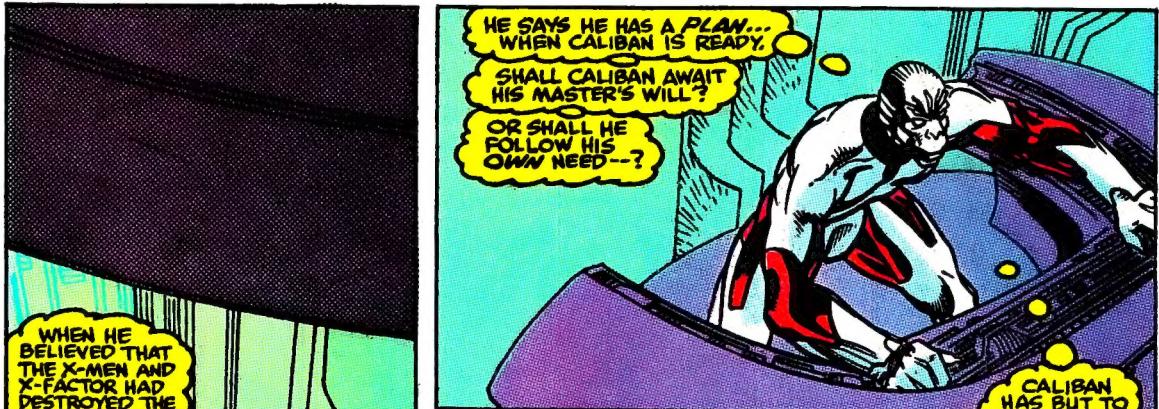
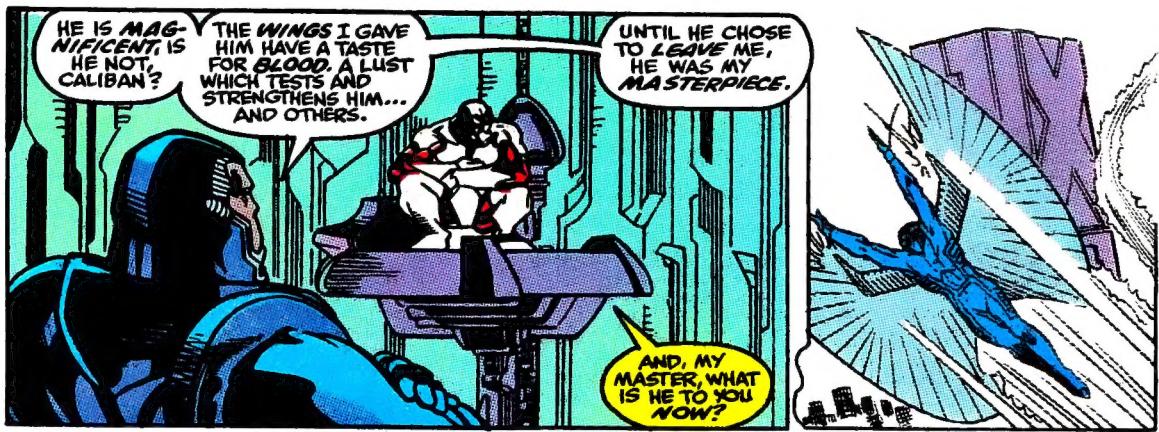
**My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is:** To put out volume after volume of mindless slug-fests and shoot-em-ups . . . oh, never mind.

**The worst part of my job is:** Shaving She-Hulk's legs.

**When nobody's looking I like to:** Scramble Norad signals and start World War III

**The one thing I really want the world to know about me is:** I started Batmania.





CALIBAN DOES NOT WISH TO HURT YOU, MASTER, BUT YOU MUST STAY BACK!

TO THIS END, YOU HAVE GIVEN CALIBAN MASTERY OF HIS SHADOW POWER...



...A POWER WHICH ENABLES YOU TO ABSORB PSIONIC ENERGY FROM THE FEAR OF YOUR ENEMIES...AND TURN THEIR FEAR AGAINST THEM.

BUT I HAVE NO FEAR OF YOU! IT IS YOU WHO ARE AFRAID.

YES, CALIBAN IS AFRAID...OF HIS DESTINY.



LIKE A GOOD HOUND, HE HAS LOVED HIS MASTER FAITHFULLY...

...AND NOW HE MUST LEAVE HIM, TO BECOME A RAVENING WOLF!

EXCELLENT, CALIBAN! YOU HAVE TAKEN THE INITIATIVE... HAVE TELEPORTED YOURSELF TO NEW YORK!

IN TRUTH, I COULD MAKE YOU NO STRONGER. FOR THOSE FINAL, MOST IMPORTANT STRENGTH YOU MUST SUPPLY YOURSELF--

--A TERRIFYING PURPOSE, AN INDOMITABLE STRENGTH OF WILL. YOU MUST BE YOUR OWN MASTER.



NOW YOU HAVE EMBRACED THE DESTINY I HAVE, IN SECRET, PREPARED FOR YOU.

YOU WILL HUNT AND DESTROY THE MARAUDERS... AND ALL OTHERS WHO OPPOSE YOU.

IN TIME YOUR VERY EXISTENCE WILL UNITE THE MUTANTS... GOOD AND BAD...

...FOR YOUR PREDATIONS WILL USHER IN THE DARK TIMES...

...AND THEY WILL NEED ALL THEIR UNITED STRENGTH TO STAND AGAINST YOU.

THEN, WILL I FEAR YOU, CALIBAN, FOR YOUR SUCCESS MAY HERALD THE END OF OUR KIND.

NEXT ISSUE:  
**ARCHANGEL VS. SABRETOOTH!**  
'NUFF SAID!'

BOB HARRAS: editor — DARYL EDELMAN: assist. editor

# X-CHANGES

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP — 387 Park Avenue South — New York, New York — 10016

Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Marvel,

I just finished reading Issues #43 through 45 of X-FACTOR, and I want to compliment the whole crew for the excellent job they've done. That planet of the Rejects and the Chosen is a great concept; it adds a touch of science fiction. More importantly, though, is the realistic lesson it teaches. It vividly depicts a life style where a person's outward appearance determines more about his/her place in the world than is what inside. The inward characteristics are what truly set us apart as individuals. Once again, I wanted to thank you for bringing this thought to mind.

I just read in MARVEL AGE that in issue #46 the Celestials make their "final judgement of the planet." I hope this doesn't spell the destruction of this fascinating world of mutants. One last thing: I had spoken earlier of the sci-fi content in the aforementioned issues, and I was wondering if your own Louise Simonson was once upon a time Louise Jones of STAR WARS?

Thanks for listening and please make more issues like the "Judgement War."

Joey Hoggard  
2303 N. 190th  
Seattle, WA 98133

Louise Simonson and Louise Jones are one and the same.

Dear Simonson, Smith, and Co..

In my mind X-FACTOR is the most realistic and awesome comic book ever made (not including the BEAUTY & THE BEAST limited series, sorry.) You don't get overwhelmed with the blood, violence, and sex. What makes a good comic is the storyline, character, love, action, drama, etc. that's what makes the magic.

Beast is my favorite character. I've liked him since I was a little kid watching Spider-Man on Saturday morning cartoons. It would be cool if Henry could meet up with his old friends Wonder Man and Hellcat. But I'm begging you keep him the way he is—blue, furry, and funny. The "Judgement War" is awesome. I wish it could go on forever. (Don't get me wrong—I want them back on earth sooner or later.) Plus Archangel would be perfect for a limited series. Make Mine Marvel!

David "the Beast" Hopkins  
1305 Brookfield Lane  
Mansfield, TX 76063

We thank you, David. The Beast thanks you, too.

Dear Ms. Simonson and Mr. Harras:

There are both positive and negative aspects to the current story in X-FACTOR. First I would like to start with the praise that I have for my favorite book...

1) Very interesting story. I always wondered when we could learn more about Ship.

2) There are new and interesting characters. The book needed some new life in it and you gave life to new characters to fill the opening.

3) The standing cast has been showing more of themselves to the reader. We are now able to get a better grasp on what makes them tick. (As if we had any doubts before.)

4) Paul Smith is bringing a vibrancy to the artwork that has been missing for a while. Art Adams' work was excellent and so were the stories he drew. Keep up the good work, Paul.

That is about it for the good comments. There are more I'm sure, but these are the main ones to me. Now for the negative comments...

1) The story is interesting, but it is dragging out much too long. I believe it will take up six issues. The reader can lose interest after four issues because of the time it will take to get the entire story. Two- or three-parters seem to be the mainstay. Why didn't the title go bi-weekly over the summer? The story would have worked very well in that format.

2) Even though the standing cast has shown more of themselves in the scenes they are in, the new characters are getting much more time in the limelight. At times this is necessary, but I buy this title because of the main characters, X-Factor.

3) It has been good to see more of Beast and Iceman than of Cyclops and Marvel Girl. America's favorite mutant couple has hogged the limelight since X-FACTOR's conception. Keep Lev around for a while; Bobby needs a love interest. As for Archangel, when do we get to see him as the "newly proclaimed Wolverine" in action? I thought he disliked humans greatly. Where has his hate been? In a closet on Ship? In fact, I think he deserves his own limited series. (I loved Angel before his change, but he is just as good now as he was before.)

4) I have this sinking feeling that Scott and Jean (or is it Madelyne...or Phoenix? Geez!) are going to creep back into center stage again. I realize that Jean's split personalities are a remnant of Inferno, but I didn't think Inferno was the greatest. It did clear up a great many questions and problems, but this is becoming nuts.

I've gone on long enough. Keep up the great story telling, "Weezie." You are doing very well. I look forward to many more issues and many more well drawn pages.

Jerry Moechnig  
Box 787

Frontenac, MN 55026

Don't worry, Jer. You'll be seeing more of the Beast, Archangel and Iceman when X-FACTOR returns to Earth.

Dear X-Crew..

Issue #45 was the best of the "Judgement War" so far. When I read #43 I thought this series was going to be kind of monotonous, but as #45 rallied into view I took a keen interest. Cyclops is experiencing an interesting situation as he tries to figure out what to do about the huge Celestial. I hope Dyson hangs around with him a little while, for he is an interesting character.

Angel (or Archangel...which is it anyway?) is by far my favorite character. I have admired him since he was an original member of the X-Men. I'm glad to see he's playing an important role in the "Judgement War" as he is stirring things up among the Chosen.

Bobby is involved in an interesting plot as he tries to put up with Lord Rask, and also tries to start something a little sweeter with Lev. We are finally seeing what a great fighter Iceman is one on one. He certainly put Rask in his place with ease. Although he is good, I still doubt he could defeat Angel one on one like he says he can.

Finally, when will Jean Grey wake up? She has been out cold for two whole issues! Although I do not like our favorite little telekinetic all that much, she still needs to be in the action.

My congratulations to a bunch of great people who make one heck of a good comic.

Don Birchell  
Ontario, Canada

Warren Worthington III was the original Angel, Don, but since his metamorphosis at the hands of Apocalypse, he was transformed into the Archangel.

Dear X-Parts,

After reading the first issue of the "Judgement War" I was hooked. You guys are making one of the coolest comics around. Never have I found a comic quite like this one with all this great art and characters in one book.

I never would have thought that so much action could be put into one issue. Anyways, as long as your future comics are as great as these last few, you can count me in!

Mike Ostroski  
965 Valley Drive  
Ashland, OH 44805

Consider yourself counted, Mike!

# MINUTEMEN



Bluntnan